IT'S ELECTION DAY

HAVE YOU VOTED?

The Eastern Echo

Tuesday, November 5, 2024 | Volume 141, Issue 12 Serving EMU and Ypsilanti since 1881

YpsiWrites celebrates 5th year, honors donors, Writers of Ypsi

Quanzelle Wyatt
News Reporter

YpsiWrites held its five year anniversary event over the weekend, inviting the Ypsi community, their writers, and more to celebrate the occasion at the Ypsilanti District Library.

They held the event in one of the conference rooms of the library, and in it you could find snacks, tables of different programming, and people socializing before the start at 1:30 p.m.

The team started off with a welcome speech from one of the co-founders of YpsiWrites, Ann Blakeslee. Blakeslee is also a Director of Campus & Community writing and a professor at EMU in the Department of English.

She welcomed everyone and talked about the program, its origins, and the amount of support they received over the years from the community.

The team, along with Blakeslee, also gave gifts to the writers who joined the program, and contributors who've collaborated and supported the program over its five year history.

Before the start of the event, Blakeslee discussed the program and its impact on the community.

"In 2019, after thinking about this for a couple of years, we knew of other places that had community writing centers. We decided to start one here in Ypsilanti," Blakeslee said.

She and others believed that the community was perfect, and that Ypsilanti would support it. Surveys they sent out confirmed their initial beliefs.

She then talked about meeting with the leaders of the district library in search of a partnership.

"They became a collaborator with us, because we felt initially they would be a terrific partner and that this would be a good place for us to do writing support, for example," Blakeslee said.

YpsiWrites also collaborates with 826 Michigan, an organization that provides programming for youth.

Since 2019, the program has been able to launch many programs and resources, especially during the COVID pandemic. During that time, YpsiWrites pivoted and provided many workshops, opportunities for writers, and even a memoir series. It gave them the momentum to grow and create more opportunities for writers.

Throughout the event, collaborators and individuals who've supported YpsiWrites over the years were recognized and gift bags were given to the 2024 Writers of Ypsilanti.

The winners were Marc Arthur, Crystal S. Campbell, R.J. Fox, Monica Hickson, Bradley Kraft, Georgia Kreiger, Ruth Mella, Emma Rodseth, and Ameera Salman.

After the event, people went to the tables close to the back of the room to check out other programming.

YpsiWrites hosting its fifth anniversary celebration at the Ypsilanti District Library. Quanzelle Wyatt/*The Eastern Echo*

Kristine Gatchel, the Programs and Partnerships Director, and instructor at the EMU English department, discussed her role in the program.

Gatchel plans for the events of the year, is the point of contact for the different programs, and helps with the different workshops and programming.

"As Ann mentioned during the event, I'm kind of the right hand. I do whatever needs to be done in terms of planning. So, the calendar and planning out events for the year," Gatchel said. She is also the point person for the Writers of Ypsi program and the Engaging Democracy program.

Gatchel shared about the organizations she's worked with over the years.

"YpsiWrites is really lucky to have two additional collaborators in the Ypsilanti District Library and 826 Michigan, so there was that built-in partnership there from the very beginning," Gatchel said.

She explained that both organizations provided great opportunities to partner with other organizations within the Ypsilanti community. One partnership they have is with the Washtenaw County Health Department. They dedicate their focus to how their program can assist the community through their various initiatives.

YpsiWrites' birthday celebration event was a time of recognition and appreciation for the work that has been done, and more work to do in the future. They celebrated the writers, and gave them time to perform their piece, which was given applause by everyone. They celebrated the collaborators and donors for their continued support.

YpsiWrites celebrates its birthday with an appreciation for the past and present, but are looking forward to the future and what it'll bring to the Ypsi Community.

Hospitality Houses provide much needed resources, community to homeless individuals

Olivia Hendry
News Reporter

On a quiet street in Ypsilanti, a gray home sits waiting for anyone who needs it. A rainbow Peace flag hangs in the front, with two other Peace signs hanging to the left and right of the front door. As people pass the garden boxes in the front, and continue to the backyard, they are met with many messages of love, hope, and encouragement. All written on the surrounding fences in different handwritings, colors, and degrees of fadedness, it tells all who walk by that many, many people have been here before.

Inside the home, people can find a warm, welcoming space of respite and community. This home, along with three others throughout Washtenaw County, welcomes those experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity with open arms. It's called Hospitality House Ypsi, which is part of the larger Hospitality House program in the area. During specific times of the week, people experiencing homelessness can come in, do their laundry, take a shower, and get a warm meal. These homes have a variety of volunteers who come during these open hours, who are dedicated to making their guests feel welcomed and accepted.

Hospitality Houses in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti support homeless individuals with a safe place to safe. *Courtesy of Lindsay Calka*

"It provides a lot of things that a shelter might provide, but the primary focus is that home feeling," said Lindsay Calka, director of Groundcover News and one of the volunteers at Hospitality House Ypsi. When that house was created, she was chosen to live there full time, and provide the day to day support for both residents and guests. "You're going to come in and you are welcome. You're going to see people that you know and love. You're going to be treated like you're known and loved."

Along with the open times, these Hospitality Houses also allow those experiencing homelessness to actually stay in the homes, according to availability. If a room is open, someone experiencing homelessness can stay for as long as they need- whether it be a few days or a few months.

"People have a room and a bed, they have the code to the door, and can live there like we do. They have chores and can contribute as they will, in any way except money," Calka said.

These Hospitality Houses are created through a nonprofit organization called MISSION, or Michigan Itinerant Shelter System

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Notes From the Editor: Echo advertisements, Election Day

Ameera Salman
Editor-in-Chief

As this election approaches, you might have seen an increase in the voting and political content in The Eastern Echo. You might also see advertisements appearing on our website, in our newspapers, or in our newsstands.

I want to take this opportunity to speak on behalf of The Eastern Echo as its editor and make clear our stance.

The Echo is an independent, student-operated newspaper, and as students, we recognize the importance of open and informed discussion. We also acknowledge, respect, and uphold the legal protections afforded to students by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

EMU's student-run campus media have been recognized by the Board of Regents as designated spaces for public student expression.

The paid advertisements you see on Echo newsracks are equal access and equal cost. They are not endorsements. We are not endorsing any candidate, any party, or any issue in this election.

Ads and content in The Echo serve a purpose: They give candidates the opportunity to share their messages and voters the opportunity to know about their choices. There can be a lot of misleading or contradictory information in well-known candidates' campaigns or in their advertising.

It is our mission to give you the most accurate, clear, and unbiased information in order to not just know your choices, but to understand them.

Your choice, your vote, is on the line in this election, along with the livelihoods, rights, and lives of so many people in this country and beyond.

Yours alone may not feel impactful, but every vote counts.

If you are old enough to vote, please get registered, check your registration, and vote. Engage @ EMU is offering free transportation to the polls for anyone who needs it.

By the time this prints and is read, the fate of this country will likely already be decided, but The Echo will still be here.

No matter how this, or any, election goes, The Echo will always be here to serve our community; what you need is what we need.

"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

-Thomas Jefferson

Ameera Salman is the editor in chief of The Echo. She has served as a writer and editor with the news organization, including two years as editor of the Cellar Roots literary magazine, since 2022.

The Eastern Echo

The Eastern Echo serves the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti-area communities as an independent student-operated newspaper. Founded in 1881 as The Normal News, The Echo distributes weekly printed editions on campus and throughout the surrounding community during the fall and winter academic semesters; and publishes year-round on the web. Contents are subject to copyright and may not be reproduced without prior written consent of the newspaper.

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THE ECHO MISSION

The Eastern Echo informs the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti community by highlighting newsworthy content in a fair, accurate and timely manner.

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PICK UP A COPY

Print editions published Tuesdays from late August to early May are available in racks or on tables in all academic buildings on the EMU campus, and at dozens of businesses in the community.

Among those businesses are:

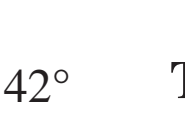
- Sweetwaters on Cross St
- The Golden Egg
- Domino's
- and more!

Want to have copies of The Eastern Echo delivered to your Ypsilanti business? Email advertising@easternecho.com!

CORRECTIONS

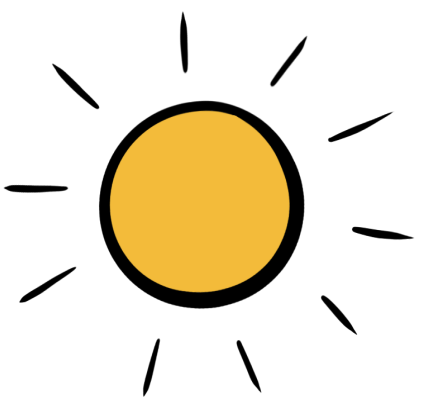
The Eastern Echo corrects mistakes. If we got it wrong, we want to make it right. Errors should be brought to the attention of the Editor-in-Chief by email: editor@easternecho.com

Weekly Calendar

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9	SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11
SUNRISE NATURE HIKE PARK LYNDON NORTH 8:30 A.M, - 10:30 A.M. 	SCHOLARLY READING WORKSHOP WITH THE HOLMAN SUCCESS CENTER HALLE LIBRARY G09 6 P.M. - 7:30 P.M. 	"TRANSCULTURAL FEMINIST PHILOSOPHY" PUBLIC TALK BY YUANFANG DAI PRAY HARROLD 219 5 P.M. - 6:30 P.M. GEOSCIENCE CAREER PANEL STRONG HALL ATRIUM AND 111 5:30 P.M. - 8 P.M. 	HONOR STRING ORCHESTRA PEASE AUDITORIUM ALL DAY 	SCHOLASTIC ESPORTS INVITATIONAL FINALS AND "GAMING IN COLLEGE" SEMINAR STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM 6 P.M. - 10 P.M. 	KAIDEN ADKINSON-BAILEY SENIOR VOCAL RECITAL HONORS COLLEGE AUDITORIUM 2 P.M. - 4 P.M. 	MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS EVENT STUDENT CENTER 310AB 12:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

Scoop's Forecast

77°	52°	Tuesday, Nov. 5	
59°	44°	Wednesday, Nov. 6	
62°	42°	Thursday, Nov. 7	
63°	41°	Friday, Nov. 8	
57°	43°	Saturday, Nov. 9	
61°	42°	Sunday, Nov. 10	
59°	41°	Monday, Nov. 11	



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EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

The Eastern Echo's guide to registration

Allie Beecher
Staff Writer

As students step into the month of November, they have a lot to look forward to,crisp fall weather, Thanksgiving break, and the opportunity to spend some time with friends and family.

However, one thing in November that may get students stressed is registration for the winter 2025 semester. Choosing classes is not always easy, and it can be especially difficult for first-year students who may not have decided on a major yet. Backed with some information and helpful tips, students can relax about registration while still planning a path that will get them where they want to go.

First, it is essential for students to know when registration is. Here are some important upcoming registration dates:

Thursday, Nov. 14: Registration for freshmen with 0-11 credit hours opens

Wednesday, Nov. 13: Registration for freshmen with 12-24 credit hours opens

Tuesday, Nov. 12: Registration for sophomores with 25-55 credit hours opens

Monday, Nov. 11: Registration for juniors with 56-84 credit hours opens

Friday, Nov. 8: Registration for seniors with 85 or more credit hours opens

Thursday, Nov. 7: Registration for graduate and undergraduate post bachelor non-degree students opens

Wednesday, Nov. 6: Registration for all Honors College students, doctoral fellows, and graduate assistants opens

All students in the Honors College will be able to register on Wednesday, Nov. 6 no matter their year in college.

The time of day at which students may register also depends on their completed credit hours. For example, all non-honors freshmen with 12-24 credit hours may register on Nov. 13, but a student with 22 credit hours may register at 10 a.m. on that day, while a student with 24 may register at 8 a.m. To learn more about exact times to register, students can visit the university Winter 2025 registration webpage.

Now that they know when registration opens, students may find themselves wondering what they can do to make the process easier. One of the best things they can do is register as early as possible. By registering early, students give themselves a better chance of being able to find a spot in the classes they need and want.

By contrast, waiting to register can result in those classes filling up with other students. Students may find it helpful to mark those registration dates on their calendars and make sure they register as soon as they can.

Nick Malendowski, Assistant Director of the Eastern Michigan University Honors College, also offered some helpful registration tips for students.

"One of the biggest things is ... utilizing campus support systems ... whether that be the Holman Success Center, a faculty advisor you might have, or academic advisors," he said.

Malendowski emphasized the importance of students communicating with their advisors to make sure they are registering for classes that will move them forward in their chosen major. Without that clear communication, it can be easy for students to get confused and end up registering for classes that they do not need.

Malendowski also recommended looking through EMU's undergraduate catalog, which offers descriptions of different courses, programs, and even academic departments.

"The catalog really gives a good outline of what's required for your degree but also the sequence of that degree," he said. "It shows what's considered the core, what's considered the major. So it really helps you get an outline of what they're looking to do with that degree."

For students who do not yet know what major they want to pursue, registration may feel especially intimidating. However, there are a few things exploratory students can do to make the process easier.

"Fine-tuning your gen eds to your interests can really help students find what they want to major in," Malendowski said.

By registering for general education classes that pique their interest, students can learn more about subjects that interest them, complete their general education requirements, and potentially figure out their major.

Registration can be stressful, but it can also be an exciting time for students to explore different class options, learn about academic pathways, and figure out which classes would be best for them.

By registering as soon as possible, communicating with their advisors on campus, and considering their interests and goals, students can take the stress out of registration and instead focus on building the schedule that will help them best move forward in their college journey.

Alpha Sigma Tau celebrates 125 years since founding at EMU

Shayla Mostyn
News Reporter

Alpha Sigma Tau, or AST, at Eastern Michigan University celebrates its Founders Day on Monday, Nov. 4, marking 125 years of sisterhood.

First founded in 1899, Alpha Sigma Tau at EMU is defined as the Alpha chapter, being the first of their chapters to be established on Eastern's campus and setting the tone for other AST chapters to be established on other campuses. Being a social sorority, Alpha Sigma Tau helps members with personal growth, promotes inclusivity and acceptance among the members, as well as doing service work through volunteer events.

Taken from Alpha Sigma Tau's national website, "From our beginnings in 1899 to today, we are proud to have continually promoted the ethical, cultural, social, and professional development of our members."

The eight women who founded Alpha Sigma Tau were Helene M. Rice, Mayene Tracy, Adriance Rice, Eva O'Keefe, May Gephart, Mabel Chase, Ruth Dutcher and Harriet Marx.

"It is truly an honor and a privilege to be able to say we're celebrating in the same halls and pathways as our founders. Those eight women pathed the way for us to be here not only as women, but as sisters," Megan Shackelford, president of AST at EMU, said.

Throughout 125 years, Alpha Sigma Tau at EMU has faced many challenges, one especially difficult challenge was recruiting and increasing their membership numbers. Due to the pandemic, their chapter was disbanded back in 2020 because all the seniors were graduating and they were unable to recruit during that time. However, now that AST has been reinstated, recruitment has returned to being a routine process. The recruitment process is organized by the College Panhellenic Association, or CPA, creating a partially structured and more relaxed recruitment experience.

"All chapters hold different events on different days and at different times," Sydney Burnette, vice president of community relations, said. "If you sign up for recruitment, you go through [all the] different rounds."

Courtesy of Megan Shackleford

This year, Burnette had the opportunity of being a Gamma Rho Chi, also known as recruitment counselor, helping those going through rush and learning about sorority chapters on Eastern's campus. To do so, Burnette first had to disassociate from AST and wipe everything off her personal social media that would have shown any connection to her sisters in Alpha Sigma Tau.

"It was really hard for me because those are my best friends, they are my sisters... I met so many incredible women from different chapters and it was an experience I will never forget," she said.

Burnette and Shackelford explained that Rush has four different rounds of recruitment: two sisterhood rounds introducing the potential new members or PNMs to the values of the sorority, a philanthropy round introducing the PNMs to the philanthropy organizations the sorority works with, and a preference round.

"The sisterhood rounds had icebreakers, [we] were just getting to know each other and introducing everyone to our sorority and to our philanthropy goals," Shackelford said.

Similarly, the philanthropy round is a more in-depth look at what the philanthropy events look like. While the first three rounds act as fun getting-to-know-the-sisters events, the preference round is more serious.

"Preference [round] is not original per se," Burnette said. "It is a ceremony to get to know us in a deeper way."

Each ceremony is sacred to each sorority, built upon the traditions initiated by its founders.

"Ours have been the same since 1899," she said.

While the roots of AST's traditions have remained the same since the beginning, with every new year of recruitment Shackelford emphasizes that "you can feel their [the founder's] presence and the strength of their bonds that have carried on throughout the years."

Every year for their Founders Day celebration, AST at EMU partners with their Oakland chapter to throw a huge celebration, with alumni in attendance from both chapters, in an effort to showcase the communal sisterly bond that their founders instilled in their sorority 125 years ago.

"We are a colorful rainbow of sisters," Burnette said.

With their Founders Day celebrations, every year the Eastern Chapter and Oakland Chapter switch off hosting the celebration, this year it is the Oakland Chapter's turn to host. While the event looks different each year, Shakelford expresses that there are some aspects that remain the same.

"Each year, we all have an amazing dinner, hear wonderful speeches from each alumna and collegiate chapter's Presidents, and hold raffles for Alpha Sigma Tau-themed gifts," Shackelford said. "This year, it sounds like there might be even MORE exciting features, but that's a Tau secret!"

One additional aspect that makes this Founders Day even more meaningful to the members of Alpha Sigma Tau at EMU is being able to have all members of AST, both past and present and on other campuses, share in the pride of AST at EMU winning the Program of the Year award.

"We are women supporting women, but we are more than that," Shackelford said. "We are people supporting people."

The supportive community that is AST, continues even after graduation. Shackelford expresses that because AST at EMU is the Alpha chapter, they have the largest alumni network in the area.

"Our alumni chapter is huge and right here at all times," Shackelford said. "You constantly have support wherever you turn."

Both Shackelford and Burnette express that although they are proud to be a part of such a strong and supportive community that is not only their sisterhood, but Greek life in general, they often feel judged for their choice of joining a sorority.

"You shouldn't judge something until you are in it," she said.

Taken from the Aurora Yearbook year 1901, written by the past members of Alpha Sigma Tau: "We can only predict its future from its brief past, and from the fidelity of its members to its interests, its high ideals and lofty aims, we feel assured that it is destined to become a permanent and ennobling element in the college."

With this Founders Day marking 125 years, Shackleford and Burnette reflect back and hope the founders would be proud of how the sorority has been able to flourish and continue to grow alongside the sisterhood that is found across their national chapters.

"Not only is it the day of Alpha Sigma Tau's creation as a sorority, but it marks the beginning of generations full of friendship, love, support, and connections," Shackelford said.

What's the move? Oct. 15-19

Hunter Johnstone
News Reporter

Check out these events happening on and around Eastern Michigan University's campus.

Sunrise Nature Hike - Nov. 5

Enjoy a morning hike at Park Lyndon North from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Register here.

Scholarly Reading Workshop with the Holman Success Center - Nov 6

Learn how to tackle scholarly articles and take notes in this LBC credit-approved event with pizza provided. The workshop in Halle Library G09 is from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Registration is required.

"Transcultural Feminist Philosophy" Public Talk by Yuanfang Dai - Nov. 7

Hear a talk that philosophically reflects Chinese feminist scholarship. The talk is LBC credit-approved and will be held in Pray Harrold 219 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Geoscience Career Panel - Nov. 7

Network, grab snacks and listen to a panel discussion of Geoscientists speak. The food and networking will be in the Atrium while the panel will be in Strong Hall 111. The event runs from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Honor String Orchestra - Nov. 8

Hear a performance by 100 string students and 100 choir students that have participated in the EMU Honor String Orchestra and EMU Honor Choir. The performance is free and runs all day at Pease Auditorium.

Scholastic Esports Invitational Finals and "Gaming in College" Seminar - Nov. 9

Watch some of the region's best high schools and community college esports teams compete against one another. Anyone may attend the event for a seminar and the finals in the Student Center Ballroom from 6 to 10 p.m.

Kaiden Adkinson-Bailey Senior Vocal Recital - Nov. 10

Listen to Tenor Kaiden Adkinson-Bailey give his Senior recital in the Honors College Auditorium at this LBC credit-approved and open-to-the-public performance from 2 to 4 p.m.

Mental Health Awareness Event - Nov. 11

Attend the Women's Resource Center's Mental Health Awareness Event which features campus therapy dog Tinker, a yoga activity, and talks from a therapist. The event will be in Student Center 310AB from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Hospitality Houses - from page 1

Interdependent Out of Necessity. MISSION's goal is, according to their website, "to work in partnership and solidarity between the homeless and the housed to build community and mitigate the alienation, disenfranchisement, loneliness, loss of agency and other forms of suffering caused by homelessness." They provide a myriad of resources for unhoused people in Washtenaw County, including food distribution, facilitating warming shelters, and, of course, the Hospitality Houses. In some cases, such as Hospitality House Ypsi, MISSION will buy a home and bring people, like Calka, to live there full time and assist in daily operations.

Or, if you're Peggy Lynch, you open your own home to the program.

Lynch is the owner of another House of Hospitality, called Mercy House. The large blue home sits right outside of downtown Ann Arbor, and offers many of the same services that Hospitality House Ypsi does. Lynch facilitates the open hours every Monday and Wednesday from 6 to 9 pm, and Saturdays from 10 am to 12 pm. During these times, Lynch and other volunteers cook a warm meal and offer it to those visiting. Saturday mornings seem to be the most popular drop in times, affectionately being known as "Peggy's Pancakes."

Lynch became involved in supporting those facing housing insecurity after meeting her partner at a tent community called Camp Take Notice. Once Camp Take Notice was evicted, many of its resources no longer had a home base- such as community meetings and meals. When this happened, Lynch moved operations to hers. Now, her residence has become a safe space for people to create community.

"We welcome guests into our home to get a meal, take a shower, do laundry, and just build friendships. [We] help people have an opportunity to relax and make friends with people in a home environment," Lynch said.

The home environment is a very important aspect of the Hospitality Houses. Because of this importance, volunteers like Lynch and Calka go above and beyond the advertised resources. They do this by celebrating visitors' birthdays, throwing baby showers for homeless mothers, and hosting holiday parties (reportedly, the end of year Christmas party is a can't miss).

"It's really important for us to celebrate holidays and individual important days so that people feel like, when they go into housing, they feel like they've got a home base even if they don't live with us. There's a connection to a place where they are cared about," said Lynch.

Through the resources they provide, Hospitality Houses create a sense of community that is felt not only by the volunteers, but by the attendees as well. People experiencing homelessness know that, whether they go to Hospitality House Ypsi, Mercy House or any other Hospitality House in Washtenaw County, they will find a group of people who genuinely care about them and their wellbeing.

Vicky Macknick has contributed, and benefitted from, this community feeling. Macknick used to live at the Robert J. Delonis Center, and discovered Mercy House during their first year of operation. Through her love of cooking, she was able to not only receive food, but also make food for those who would come during open hours. She now volunteers at Mercy House whenever she can. Providing for others has given her peace during a difficult time, she said.

"It gave me a place to get out of the madness of the homeless shelter. I was able to come over here, spend my food stamps, and cook for anybody, I love coming over here and cooking, it's my way of nurturing," Macknick said.

"I think that the biggest resource that I think we give is community," said Gracie, another person who has both benefitted and contributed to Mercy House. "Not just the showers, not just the breakfast on Saturdays, it's the community."

Gracie, who goes by her first name "like Madonna," has worked with Mercy House and Lynch for six years, and describes both as being a foundation and a rock throughout her life. In Gracie's view, Mercy House stands out not just for its tangible resources, but for its powerful sense of community, a rare haven of support and connection amidst the challenges of homelessness.

"Oftentimes, especially when you're homeless, you get a lot of shut doors, and people aren't welcoming you in, they're actually pushing you away. So it's cool that [Lynch] bought this house for that reason- to welcome people in," Gracie said.

That is the ultimate goal of Lynch, Calka, and the rest of the Hospitality Houses in Washtenaw County. They want people to know they are welcome, and that there is a space for them to utilize specific resources and create a community.

"The stability of us being here on a predictable schedule is a helpful thing for people who are really experiencing a profound lack of stability," Lynch said. "Just having someone here that remembers their name and makes eye contact and cares that they're going through probably the worst time of their life, is very helpful."

"Just having that relationship, knowing a familiar face or having somewhere to go, I know for me that was super important. Just having someplace where people were welcoming me in," Gracie said.

Myranda Wiggins becomes Homecoming Queen

Jaida Hawkins
Staff Writer

Editor's Note: The Eastern Echo staff is meeting regularly with interesting people both on and off campus. Engage in those conversations with us, through our weekly Q&A report. This week, Myranda Wiggins, a senior at Eastern Michigan University, who was chosen at the 2024 Black Homecoming Queen.

Homecoming is a time that brings together students and alumni, and in addition to celebrating the university's 175th birthday this year's celebrations included the traditional Black Homecoming activities and the selection of a 2024 Black Homecoming Queen. Myranda Wiggins, an Eastern Michigan University senior and a member of the university theater crew, said she hadn't thought about running for the honor until she did.

Q: How long have you been a student at EMU?

Wiggins: This is my senior year, so four years now.

Q: What is your major?

Wiggins: So, it's the comprehensive major, the communications, media studies, and theatre arts.

Q: Are you a part of any orgs on campus?

Wiggins: I am. I'm a part of Sistas That Care, which is an org that focuses on women's mental health. I'm a part of Black Student Union and then I'm president of Burning Bush College which is a Christian org that we have here on campus.

Q: What inspired you to run for homecoming queen?

Wiggins: The tea is, when I came up here that was not on my mind. I was thinking about it. I said I don't know if I should run, maybe I should run. Then a really good friend of mine who won last year, I was talking to her about it. She said, "I think you should do it," and I replied, "I don't know." I talked to my friends about it. I called some of my family and friends from home. They said "I think you should do it; you know, you're very well known on campus. A lot of people know you" and I said "OK." And we put it in, and I guess we did our big one. But it was definitely not on the schedule at first. I'm excited I did it though.

Q: What tools did you use to encourage students to vote for you?

Wiggins: I have to give a huge shout out to our campaign team. Jordan and I had a couple of our friends help out with a bunch of the campaigning. Social media was a huge thing. Making sure we were getting our stuff out on social media. Using TikTok for what kind of videos could we post. Also, being appealing to students; what do they want from us? The last day of voting, Jordan and I were going around giving out water and homemade cookies that we made to students. Also, just showing our face at other events. Just making sure we're showing our appreciation for the students here on campus.

Eastern Michigan University senior Myranda Wiggins wins the crown for 2024 Homecoming Queen during Black Homecoming festivities. Jaida Hawkins */ The Eastern Echo*

Q: What was your favorite part about being on the homecoming court?

Wiggins: Running with some of my friends, I think it was fun. I think, also, the whole process, the pictures, promotion and campaign, was fun. I remember a lot of people from my home asked, "Can we vote?" I said, "You can't, only if you go to EMU," but they also said, "We're really enjoying the content that you're promoting, please keep it going." We try not to do too many repeats when, you know, promoting the content but, making sure each content was original. We did a lot of stuff together but then I posted some by myself and Jordan posted some content by himself. Even though we were running together also giving a chance for people to learn the candidates on their own individually as well.

Q: Were there any challenges you encountered while running for queen? At any point did you feel like you might not win?

Wiggins: In full transparency yes, I kept pulling back and forth because even though we were the first people to announce, I did get a little bit intimidated when other people started to announce as well. I said, "Oh, so now I'm not going to win, I have competition." At first it was just me and I said, "Oh that's it, I got it in the bag." I don't know, I think it was also because I knew some of the candidates and I'm really, really close with some of them. So, it was kind of fun running against them, but I did get a little bit intimidated. In full transparency, just praying and making sure that if God wants this for me, it's going to be for me. I did sometimes go back and forth. I was texting one of my friends and another friend was running. I said, "She's running, I don't think I can do it." She said, "Myranda you're fine, you still have a lot of people."

Q: What was your reaction when finding out you won?

Wiggins: I remember it like it was yesterday. It was probably one of my favorite days of the whole year. Well, first of all, all my friends came. My friends here, and I wanted my friends from back at home to come, but they weren't able to make it. My friends here came, some people from my church came outside and I was very surprised that they came out. One of my best friends, Erica, who goes to my church came out. They were doing the yard show and then it was intermission and Coop said, "Can all the candidates come down." I said, "OK, here we go." I went down with my friend Mykah Burton, who was running against me. I was literally just shaking. I was literally like "OK, deep breaths, deep breaths" and said, "God if this is for me, it's for me." Then they announced the Homecoming King and Queen runner ups, which were Kamani and Mykah. Then they announced the Homecoming King, and it was Jordan. I said "Yay" then "Oh lord if it's not me I'm going to cry and break down." She said Myranda Wiggins and I started crying. I was frozen but all I know is everyone was screaming Myranda, Myranda. All my best friends were screaming and my friends from back at home were on the phone and they said, "Myranda, we were crying." It was very emotional. I will never ever forget the number of people who came out to support and just show that they actually truly care for me and love me. My friends from the theater came out with the cutest shirts saying, "I love Myranda."

Q: How did you celebrate winning?

Wiggins: The same night even before knowing I won, my friends said we were going to go out. I said OK. So, we were supposed to go to Chili's, but time ran over and then we went to B-Dubs that night to celebrate. Then I had other events Friday. Then obviously the tailgate, but that day was probably one of my favorite days in my entire life honestly. I was not expecting it. It was just a very surreal moment that I couldn't believe happened and I'm very, very grateful for everything and every person that poured into me.

Q: If you could, would you redo the entire experience over?

Wiggins: Oh yeah, I would, I would for sure. I don't know if there is anything I would change. I think I would definitely do it again, maybe do some more promo. Like we were constantly promoting and posting stuff, but I would probably do some more posting.

Q: So what's next for Miss Homecoming Queen?

Wiggins: I'm going to take a break. I've been very, very, very busy but I'm currently in a show at EMU that opens up in December. It's one of the shows that we tour. So, that's one of my favorite things about EMU. I have never been to a college that also tours. We tour high schools. We start touring in November so I'm excited for that. So, I'm currently trying to take a break from homecoming. I'm still in disbelief and my mom was asking "Where are you going to put the crown?" I have no idea, I want to put my crown somewhere special because it's a nice crown. I'm really happy I got it.

Wiggins is part of the cast of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," on stage at Eastern Michigan University at 7 p.m. Dec. 6 and 7, and for 2 p.m. matinee performances Dec. 7 and 8. The cast will perform the show at area high schools starting in November.

Gideon the Ghost, Eastern's post-mortem advice columnist

Gray Connor
Staff Writer

Editor's Note: Gideon the Ghost is a persona and art project developed by an Eastern Michigan University student. Because the project depends on a sense of anonymity behind the persona, the editors of The Echo agreed to respect that anonymity for the purposes of this interview with Gideon the Ghost. This article is part of The Echo's conversations with people on and off campus.

Eastern Michigan University has its very own resident ghost. Haunting campus since the 2023-2024 school year, his name is Gideon, also known as Gideon the Ghost or Gideon Somerset when he was among the living. Gideon has a passion for providing EMU students with advice from beyond the veil. By putting pen to paper, he wordlessly helps give advice to students by writing them personalized notes. Whether it's a breakup, existential crisis, or someone's just looking for some help beyond the grave, Gideon is there to offer whatever he can.

Recently, Gideon sat down with a reporter from The Echo to talk about his work.

Q: I know it's probably a sensitive subject, but can I ask how you died?

Gideon: Yeah, it's been long enough that it's not so hard to talk about now. It was 1823, and I was trying to sail Cape Horn. My boat wasn't too big, and a storm came in when I was still on the water. Long story short, I drowned and was sent straight to the afterlife.

Q: So, you said that your time at EMU is both a job and volunteering, can you explain that?

Gideon: I guess this is a little bit of a spoiler for the afterlife, but after you die, you still have to get a job. One of those options is returning to Earth and doing some kind of public service. To be completely honest, the 2020s as a decade weren't competitive — there's a lot of instability right now — so it was pretty easy for me to get it! I had to take some classes before I could return, which explains the 200-year gap between my death and coming back; since the world looks so different now, I had to be briefed on all that had changed. I also excelled in my classes. We didn't have phones and all that in my time.

Q: What were you up to before coming to Earth?

Gideon: I did a lot of traveling, and not in the way you might think. Being a ghost, I'm able to reach a lot of places my mortal self couldn't. Lots of space travel. I particularly like sitting on the ice-clusters in the rings of Saturn; and I made some friends, too. But that might be a bit difficult to explain to people still alive. You'll just have to wait and see.

Gideon the Ghost hosts an advice panel in the Student Center during Pumpkins on the Patio. Max Taylor/*The Eastern Echo*

Q: So, why do you want to spend your time giving advice to students?

Gideon: I've heard a lot of different questions from people, each one different from the last, and I think it's important for every single person to have someone who will listen to them. Not only am I giving people a keepsake, an item that's unique to them, I'm also unbiased in everything I write. I won't pass judgment. I won't have any thoughts beyond hoping the best for that person and offering my small words of advice to hopefully make it all a little bit easier.

That's my whole purpose here. To offer a space for the people who feel as though they have nowhere else to go. We're all struggling, but we can struggle together. There's no judgment among the dead, and why not use my ability to come to EMU and offer the same treatment?

Q: What are your thoughts on EMU? Does anything stand out?

Gideon: I'm enamored by Swoop. They didn't have those creatures when I was alive. I never knew that magic was real before I started my haunting, so it's nice that I've gotten the chance to meet such a rare creature. I mean, a humanoid bird? I don't get it, but I'm a fan!

Q: Do you have any last advice to any students reading?

Gideon: One thing I like to emphasize is showing yourself grace. When it comes to anxiety, sometimes people get really impatient, and get so angry at themselves. And I don't know, I think that people should forgive themselves for just feeling. I say a lot 'sighs and misty eyes my friends, they're all OK.' Sometimes, you sigh a lot, and that's OK. You shouldn't be shameful for your negative emotions. Look at it and embrace it.

Gideon the Ghost can next be spotted at Campus Life's Pumpkins on the Patio, from 4-6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29. Two years into his term, he won't be on Earth forever, so be sure to catch him while you can! While his outfit might change, the best way to identify this spooky specter is the white cloth on his head, with two black eye holes. For more information, Gideon can be contacted via his Instagram: ghostlygideon. However, he asks for you to be patient with texting, he's ancient!

Eastern football falls to Toledo in heartbreaker

Elena Davis
Sports Editor
Jack Monk
Sports Reporter

As November kicked off, the Eagles faced off against the Toledo Rockets in a tough showdown. The Eastern Michigan University football team suffered a narrow defeat, losing 29-28 on Saturday, November 2, at Rynearson Stadium. The Eagles (5-4, 2-3 Mid-American Conference) put up strong numbers, outgaining the Rockets (6-3, 3-2 MAC) in total yards, passing yards, and rushing yards. Still, a failed two-point conversion following a last-second touchdown left them just short of victory.

The game began aggressively, but Eastern's quarterback, Cole Snyder (Lakewood, New York/Southwestern/Rutgers/Buffalo), struggled to complete passes early on. Nevertheless, a series of penalties allowed the Eagles to progress down the field. With just two minutes left in the first quarter, Markus Allen (Dayton, Ohio/Northmont/Wisconsin/Butler CC) scored a six-yard touchdown, putting Eastern up 7-0 as the quarter closed. Toledo quickly responded in the second quarter with a touchdown followed by a field goal, tying the game at 7-7. Eastern managed to regain the lead with a 3-point field goal from Jesús Gómez (Puebla, México/Prepa Tec Puebla), making it 10-7.

An injury to Toledo's Jeremiah Peters led to a 27-minute delay in the game, pausing the second quarter with just over seven minutes remaining. Eastern coach Chris Creighton expressed concern for Peters, saying, "We hope the young man from Toledo is going to be okay... It's super scary, but I hope he's okay."

After the delay, Gómez extended the Eagles' lead to 13-7 before halftime with another field goal. The Eagles continued to build momentum, with Joey Mattord (Hartland, Michigan/Hartland) scoring his first collegiate touchdown, bringing the score to 19-7 heading into the fourth quarter. However, the Rockets rallied, scoring two quick touchdowns to take a 22-19 lead.

Facing a late-game deficit, Gómez tied the score again with his third field goal of the game. Toledo responded with a touchdown, pulling ahead 29-22 with just under two minutes left. Snyder managed to drive the team down the field, launching a Hail Mary pass to Terry Lockett Jr. (St. Paul, Minnesota/Minnehaha Academy/Michigan State) as time expired, bringing the Eagles within one. However, the two-point conversion attempt failed, sealing the game for Toledo.

Snyder completed 24 of 45 passes for 265 yards, marking his season total at 2,087 yards, which ranks among the top in Eastern Michigan's history. He also led the team in rushing with a career-high 65 yards on 12 carries. Oran Singleton (Clewiston, Florida/Clewiston/Akron/Hutchinson CC) recorded eight catches for 103 yards, while Lockett Jr. contributed four receptions and a touchdown. Defensively, James Djonkam (Springfield, Virginia/West Springfield/Independence CC/Arizona State) and Luke Murphy (Massillon, Ohio/Massillon/Kent State) each recorded 11 tackles, showcasing a solid effort that included two forced turnovers.

Djonkam shared his thoughts after the game, expressing disappointment but also pride in the team's effort. "In the locker room, everyone's disappointed we fought the entire game... We have 24 hours to feel this loss, then afterwards, we got to get back to work," he said. He emphasized the team's unity and determination to finish the season strong, aiming for a 3-0 record.

This close loss marks Eastern's third consecutive defeat to Toledo, with the last win in the series dating back to November 2, 2021. The Eagles now prepare for a break before returning to action on November 13 against Ohio University, aiming to regroup and finish the season on a high note. Catch the game on ESPN+ or WEMU, 89.1, and follow the Eastern Echo for more sports updates.

Inside Sahar Nusseibeh's leadership ahead of women's basketball season

Elena Davis
Sports Editor

As Halloween approached, Sahar Nusseibeh, the new head coach of the Eastern Michigan University women's basketball team, sat down for an exclusive interview, brimming with excitement and optimism for the upcoming season. Transitioning into her role amidst the autumn rains, Nusseibeh's infectious enthusiasm and focus on building relationships set a promising tone for what lies ahead.

Reflecting on her new position, Nusseibeh remarked, "The most exciting thing for me is the people. When this opportunity came about, I talked with Scott (Wetherbee) and Erin (Kito), and there was so much alignment in terms of what we are about. Their vision for the department and how much people matter really resonated with me."

She emphasized that this connection was crucial in her decision to join EMU.

With a roster that boasts a blend of returning players and newcomers, Nusseibeh expressed confidence in her team's potential. "Our returners have embraced everything with open arms. They are not resistant; they are open to a new coach and a new staff," she noted. "The players we brought in are exceptional as well. There's a lot of alignment, and the most exciting thing will always be the people."

Notably, Nusseibeh has welcomed five players from her previous coaching stint, which she believes adds a seamless dynamic to the team.

"They know the system and how we do things," she explained. "We're really big on the 'how.' How you do anything is how you do everything. It's about developing leadership and setting high standards, which we know they can achieve."

As she delves into her coaching philosophy, Nusseibeh stresses the importance of balancing academics and athletics.

"We want to create an environment where they feel comfortable saying, 'Coach, I have class at this time,' and we prioritize that," she said. "They're students before they are athletes, and we want to support them as people first."

This holistic approach extends to mental health, a focus that Nusseibeh believes is essential for her players' performance on the court.

"If they're stressed about school, they won't be good on the court. We prioritize things beyond basketball," she added.

Having previously coached at Bowling Green and Miami University, Nusseibeh brings valuable experience to EMU.

"This league is competitive. If you don't bring your A-game, you will lose," she cautioned, indicating that she is prepared to elevate her team's performance to meet the Mid-American Conference (MAC) demands.

One of her primary goals is to establish a foundation of love, trust, and respect within the program.

"Foundation goes deeper than the surface," she explained. "It's about leading with love, trust, and respect every single day. Our athletes are capable, and we want them to grow in every facet."

Nusseibeh is committed to fostering a culture of accountability, ensuring her players understand that actions speak louder than words.

Team bonding is a crucial aspect of her coaching approach. She mentioned the importance of players enjoying each other off the court to ensure game cohesion.

"If we can't enjoy each other off the court, there will be no chemistry on the court," she remarked. The team's "Eagle Get Togethers" (EGTs), which focus on food, fun, and education, help foster these connections.

As the season approaches, Nusseibeh remains focused on instilling a winning mentality in her players.

"People are everything. It's about who is in that locker room, who is bought in, and who believes in each other," she said. "That's what will make us successful."

With a strong vision and a commitment to nurturing players and relationships, Sahar Nusseibeh is ready to lead EMU women's basketball into an exciting new chapter. As fans anticipate the season ahead, her focus on building a supportive and successful team culture promises to leave a lasting impact on the program.

The upcoming 2023-24 season will be pivotal as it opens with a home game on Monday, Nov. 4, at the EMU George Gervin GameAbove Center. The Eagles will take on Texas State at 6:30 p.m. This marks an exciting opportunity for Nusseibeh to lead her team in front of the home crowd as they begin their quest for success in the MAC.

EMU women's soccer ends season with win against Akron, finishes 7th in conference

Megan Roth
Sports Reporter

Eastern Michigan showed up to Akron, Ohio, on Oct. 31 with a win on their mind.

They succeeded and accomplished this goal by ending the game with a win of 1-0. Eastern's defense fulfilled the significant expectations they had earned for themselves this season, and the forwards used their talent and hard work to score a needed goal. This was a great way to end the 2024 soccer season.

The only goal that game was scored by sophomore Olivia Sipsock (Medina/Medina, Ohio) in the 44th minute. Sophomore Cameryn Susey (Olentangy Berlin/Westerville, Ohio) had taken a shot preceding this, and it was blocked. This deflection had reached sophomore Lucia Johnson (Turpin/Akron/Cincinnati, Ohio), credited with her first season's assist off of Sipsock's goal. Sipsock had received the ball and had taken the shot 16 yards back. It found the net in the right corner, giving EMU the lead and Sipsock her 5th goal this season.

While the forwards got praise for their goals, the defense did a less flashy job, but that didn't make it any less important. The Eastern Eagles had another shutout in the game against Akron. The defense stepped up and played with heart and dedication. They had nine shutouts this season, which is the most that EMU has had since 2009.

Sophomore Sarah Van Euwen (Avon Lake/Avon Lake, Ohio) was a defender who stood out this year. She had been recognized as an outstanding player, which caused her to play in every game this season. Out of the eighteen games she played in, she played 90 minutes in fifteen. She had even managed to get a goal this season as a defender. Her talent contributed significantly to the Eagles' success, which will not go unnoticed.

EMU goalie, sophomore Ella Holland (Dunwoody/Dunwoody Georgia), had five saves during the Akron game. This brought her total saves this season to 77. She blocked many shots on goal with incredible placement. She also brought outstanding leadership to the team. She spoke loudly to the players on the field, directing them where to be and what to do.

Throughout this year, you could see that her team had faith in her abilities. They could always rely on passing back to her. She was a force to be reckoned with, and she stayed in goal for every minute of every game this season. This was the first time someone played this much on EMU since Kaylin Williams in 2016.

Each player on the EMU soccer team made an impact. One person specifically brought this team together; Taylor Clarke, head coach of the Eastern Eagles. This was his first year as EMU's head coach and he brought them from a 1-12-6 record in 2023 to a 7-6-5 record in 2024.

He chose to put the correct players on that field. It takes excellent coaching skills to do that because it isn't all about who has the most talent. He had to choose eleven players that have great chemistry. Most of the time he put into this team was done in private, and humbly, he stands on that sideline as the glue that holds this team together.

Although this was only one game, it was an important one. This win gave EMU its first winning record since the spring of 2021. The Eagles also finished 7th in the MAC tournament, only one point behind Bowling Green.

Everyone better look out for the Eastern Eagles next year because they have the potential to go all the way.

Eagle Tips and Tales: Nov. 5-11

Elena Davis
Sports Editor

Eagle Sports Tips and Tales is back with a thrilling lineup of Eastern Michigan University athletics events!

As EMU Women's Basketball Head Coach Sahar Nusseibeh said, "Well, first off, thank you. I think it starts with our fans and our support. It's so important for our women, and our men, when we're competing, to look up and see people backing us. So, my first message is one of gratitude. And my second message is: get excited and stay with us. Just as I'm asking our women to stay resilient through the ups and downs, I hope our fans will do the same this season. There will be highs, lows, injuries, wins, and losses, stay with us and enjoy the ride. One thing I can always promise is that we'll work hard and stay connected. We're looking forward to a great season."

From volleyball rivalries to basketball season kick-offs, here's what to look forward to in November.

Volleyball vs. Central Michigan

Kicking off the month, EMU's volleyball team will face Central Michigan at 6 p.m. on Nov. 5 in Ypsilanti. With home-court advantage, the Eagles are ready for this intense matchup against a familiar MAC opponent.

Men's Basketball vs. Siena Heights

Get ready for the first tip-off of men's basketball! On Nov. 8 at 12 p.m., the Eagles will host Siena Heights in Ypsilanti. This early game promises an exciting start to the season as EMU's squad looks to showcase their talent and start strong.

Volleyball vs. Akron

On Nov. 8-9, the volleyball team will play back-to-back home matches against Akron at 6 p.m. both nights. These doubleheader matches are crucial as the Eagles aim to climb the MAC standings, giving fans an action-packed weekend.

Women's Basketball vs. Alabama A&M

On Nov. 9, women's basketball hits the court for their season opener at 1 p.m. in Ypsilanti, facing Alabama A&M. This game will set the tone for the season, so don't miss the chance to see the Eagles kick off their campaign with style.

Swimming & Diving vs. Indiana State

Also on Nov. 9 at 1 p.m., the swimming & diving team hosts Indiana State in Ypsilanti. It's a great chance to catch the Eagles in action as they dive into an intense competition season.

Women's Basketball vs. Michigan State

Capping off the week, the women's basketball team travels to East Lansing to face Michigan State on Nov. 11 at 6:30 p.m. This away game will be a tough test for the Eagles as they take on the Spartans, one of their most competitive matchups of the season.

With so many games on the schedule, there's no shortage of excitement this month! Follow along, support the Eagles, and stay tuned to The Eastern Echo for the latest updates, scores, and coverage on EMU athletics. Go Eagles!

Read more at easternecho.com!

'Venom: The Last Dance' a bad film, but a great time

Frank Remski
Review Columnist

The unhinged final installment in the "Venom" trilogy has finally arrived. The directorial debut of Kelly Marcel, who was a writer on the previous films, "Venom: The Last Dance" saw the unusual duo consisting of journalist Eddie Brock and sentient alien goo Venom fight for their lives. Tom Hardy reprised his role as both Eddie and Venom and was a producer and co-writer on the film, along with Marcel.

Review

Though Venom is a Marvel character, this film is not a part of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. It was made by Sony who own the rights to Spider-Man characters and is part of their own separate universe featuring films such as "Morbius" and "Madame Web." The only films necessary to understand "The Last Dance" are the previous "Venom" movies. Nor are the other two films recommendable for watching.

Lows

Typically, reviews for The Eastern Echo are written with the highs first. However, this format would not work for "The Last Dance." In order to understand where this film stood quality-wise, the problems must be in the front.

By most metrics, this film was bad. Not a single character outside of Eddie/Venom spoke like a normal person does, boiled down to mere caricatures instead of fully-fledged characters. They provided heavy exposition, not trusting the audience to understand the plot or world building. The film even opened with the villain monologuing his exact plan. Said villain was also the least interesting in a trilogy where villains were consistently one of the weakest points.

In these characters' defense, the plot and world-building were confusing. The trilogy was not consistent with itself, with sci-fi elements that were haphazard and half baked, riddled with plot holes. The plot was more a series of contrivances taped together into something resembling a plot. It was also highly predictable. This made the climactic battle especially a problem as the viewer could immediately figure out how the antagonist would go down, but then must wait for the heroes to figure out the obvious.

Highs

Despite these fundamental problems, nearly the entire film was wildly entertaining.

As a matter of fact, the problems at times came off as humorous. The ridiculousness elevated the film from having a comedic leaning to being an outright comedy. However, ironically was not the only way the film could be enjoyed. This would not necessarily fit into the "so bad it's good" genre, it was far too enjoyable for that. The movie was also genuinely funny, not taking itself too seriously and featuring strong banter.

At the film's core was a sincere relationship between Eddie and Venom. The obvious direction to take them would be horror, after all, it was an alien possessing a human. Instead, Venom's possession was more akin to an annoying but lovable roommate (the correct term would probably be "bodymate.") The relationship was so strong, queer readings could be had. Even the film's title, "The Last Dance" was open to a queer interpretation, last dances are typically romantic after all.

Eddie was also a breath of fresh air. He was not a chiseled, adonis type of hero with a heart of gold. He spent the entire film having the worst day of his life and looked and acted like it. Despite how wacky this film was, it infused a sense of realism in the superhero genre in a similar way that Robert Pattinson's Batman did.

Verdict

"Venom: The Last Dance" stood out in the current, oversaturated superhero film landscape. The wackiness of it was even nostalgic, harkening back to a time when superhero films didn't take themselves so seriously. Although many of the serious films are far better, such as 2022's "The Batman" or 2014's "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," these "Venom" films had a worthy spot in the canon. They provided a wildly enjoyable time and a lovable bond between human and alien.

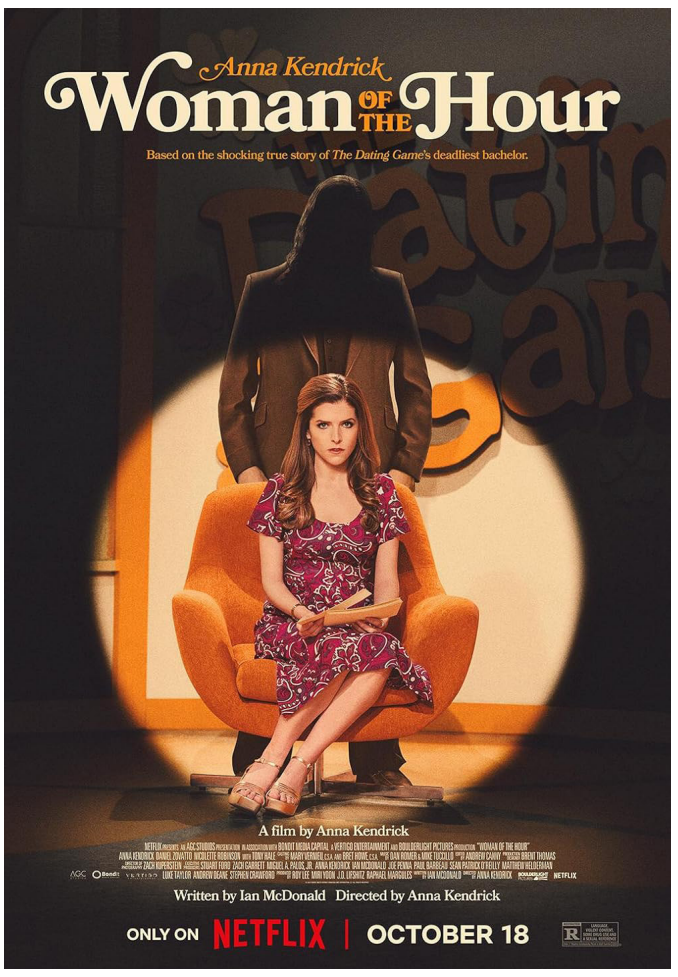
"Venom: The Last Dance" is currently playing in theaters everywhere.

Rating: 7.5 out of 10

Frank Remski is a film and theater reviewer for the Eastern Echo. He is majoring in media studies and journalism and minoring in public relations. He has worked for The Echo since summer of 2023 and has written both news stories and opinion pieces.

'Woman of the Hour' highlights the true story of the American dating game show serial killer

Mariam Fakhreddine
Review Columnist


Anna Kendrick
Woman OF THE Hour
Based on the shocking true story of The Dating Game's deadliest bachelor.
A film by Anna Kendrick
Written by Ian McDonald Directed by Anna Kendrick
ONLY ON NETFLIX | OCTOBER 18

"Woman of the Hour," directed by Anna Kendrick, was released on Netflix on October 18. This movie is trending on Netflix as it captures the true story of the American serial killer, Rodney Alcala. It features Anna Kendrick as Cheryl Bradshaw and Daniel Zovotto as Rodney Alcala. This is for a mature audience only, due to violent depictions.

Review

This film takes place in Los Angeles in the 1970s and was full of murders that made headlines. A young woman who is a struggling actress goes on a game dating show. She crosses paths with a serial killer, one of the show's bachelors. This movie depicts the wave of victims that Alcala crosses paths with.

Highs

The highs of this film revolve around the tension between Alcala and the victims. The fear each victim becomes captures the tone of the film well. It is an intriguing psychological thriller that highlights Alcala's motives. Zovotto portrayed Alcala perfectly, quickly changing his emotions from laughing to this malicious look towards the women. To his victims, he seems like this charming guy who is an aspiring photographer, but that quickly changes after he gets them alone.

The number of flashbacks is another highlight, considering how detailed each is and builds context as to how Alcala convinces these women to accompany him. The plot is fascinating as it surrounds this dating game show and an aspiring actress, Bradshaw, who is more intelligent than she looks. Kendrick's acting is excellent when it comes to Bradshaw as she portrays her emotions perfectly, showing her fear when encountering Alcala.

Another highlight was how similar the setting of the dating game show was to the original. It captured the true essence of the show and how it presented three bachelors and the "woman of the hour," Cheryl. The film accurately represented how these events took place to the audience.

Kendrick captured the true story as credible as possible. She showed many events in flashbacks, showing the audience a picture of each known victim involved.

Lows

The lows in this film are minimal; the main one is how Alcala looks. His hair is unlike Alcala's in real life, and some of his actions during the dating game cannot be perceived as authentic. Another low is that if the film was longer, it could have shown the trial of Alcala being prosecuted. The lack of information concerning Cheryl leaving out of the blue confused the audience. There were also instances where the flashbacks were confusing from what was past and present.

Verdict

"Woman of the Hour" is worth the watch for those interested in true crime. This film captures the chilling true story surrounding Rodney Alcala and how he murdered his victims.

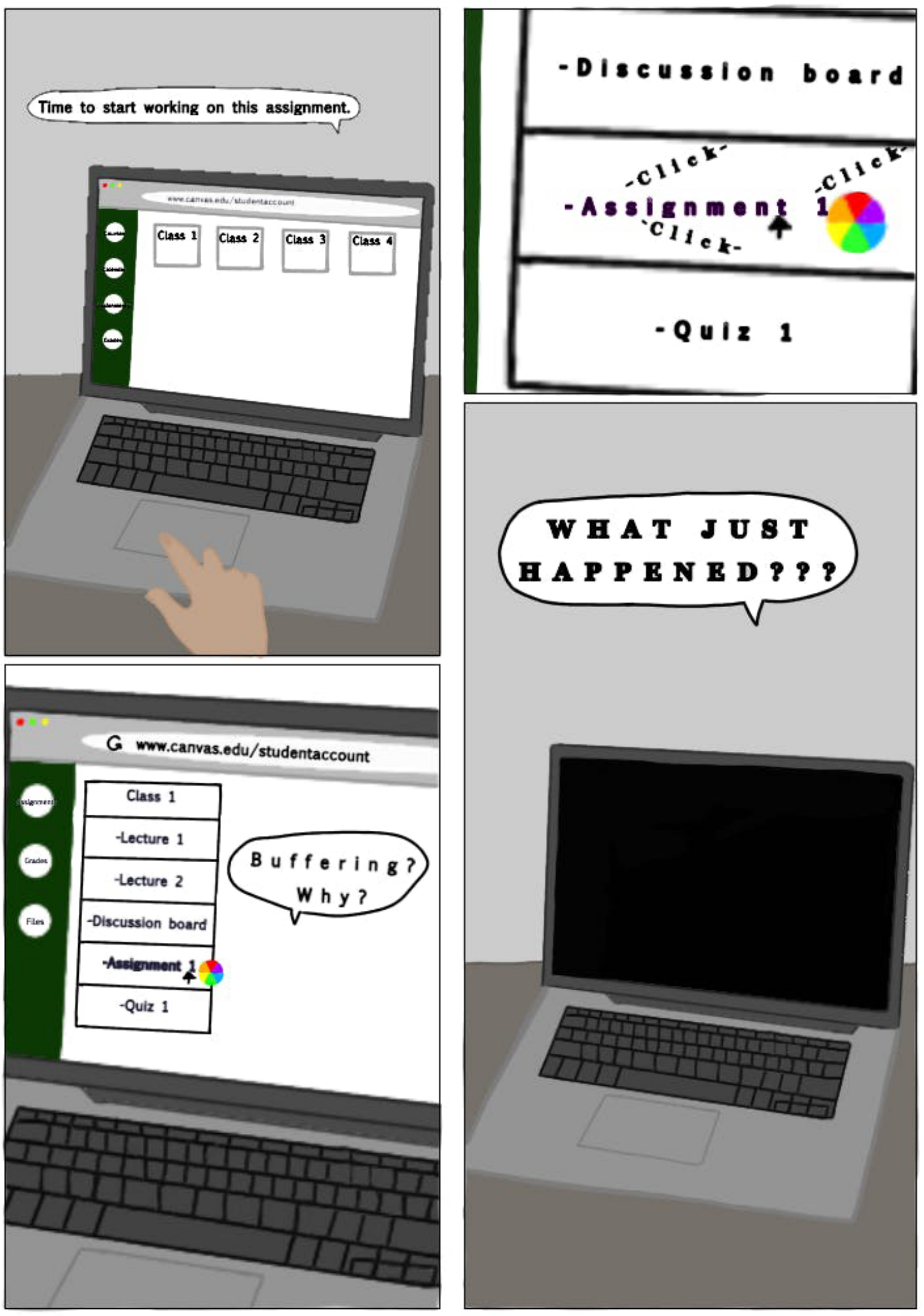
Rating: 8.5 out of 10

Mariam Fakhreddine is a film and theater reviewer for The Eastern Echo. She has worked as a news and features reporter for The Echo for two years.

Moonlight Chapter 1
Funkyl0af
Comic Artist

I DON'T WANT TO BE A VAMPIRE.
I NEED TO GO TO COLLEGE.
I'M SO DONE FOR.
NO ONE WILL FIND OUT, GREGORY.
I HAVE POINTY EARS AND FANGS. I CAN TURN INTO A BAT.
I'M SURE YOUR ROOM-MATE WON'T NOTICE, AT LEAST.
HE LOOKS TOTALLY OBLIVIOUS.
I GUESS?

Technical Difficulties
Kylee Murdoch
Comic Artist

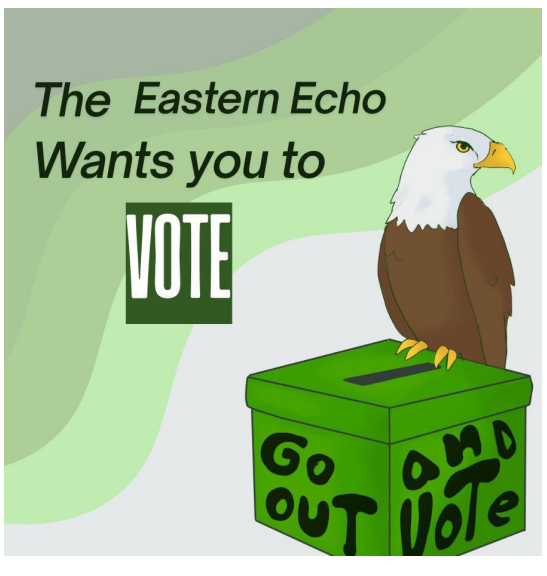


Sparking Dreams
Rylee Curley
Design Chief

There's a new star in the sky.
A sign to others that they aren't alone.
So, on any given day, they can connect with their people.
Finally, the time came when we weren't asleep.

Scan for The Eastern Echo newsletter!

Find more comics on our website!



Learn what's at stake in the Michigan Supreme Court race →

IN 2022, SEVEN MICHIGAN STATE LEGISLATURE RACES WERE DECIDED BY UNDER 1,000 VOTES

There are 454,231 college students in Michigan. Local elections impact your daily life and are often decided by just a few votes. As a voter, trust yourself to vote in every contest. Make sure to complete your ballot from top to bottom.

Early Voting Ends:
Nov. 3, 2024

Election Day:
Nov. 5, 2024

nextgen america

Paid for by NextGen Climate Action

Callie Ross coloring in a portion of the 175th anniversary canvas as part of the Spirit Station setup in the Student Center. Max Taylor/*The Eastern Echo*